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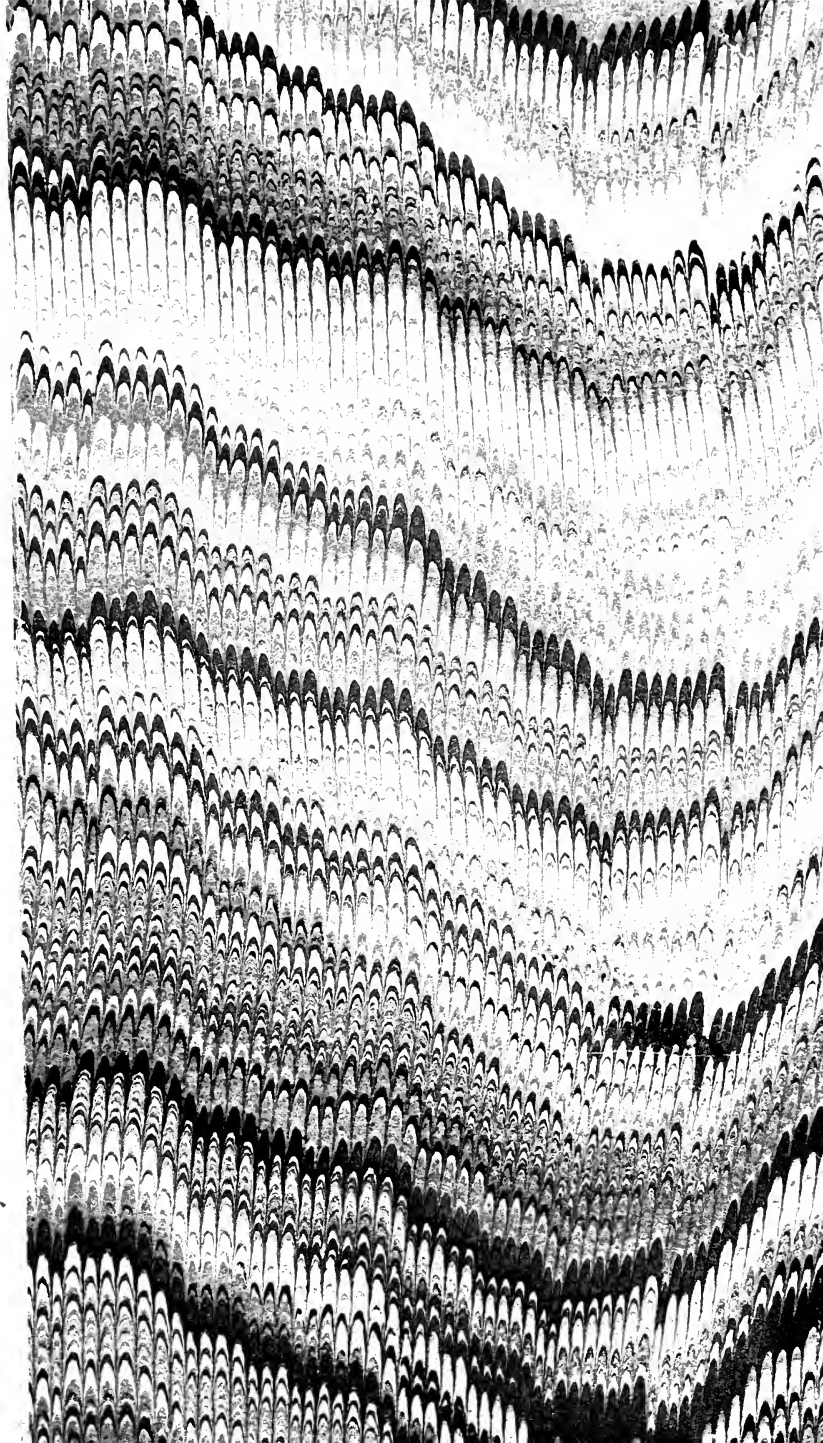


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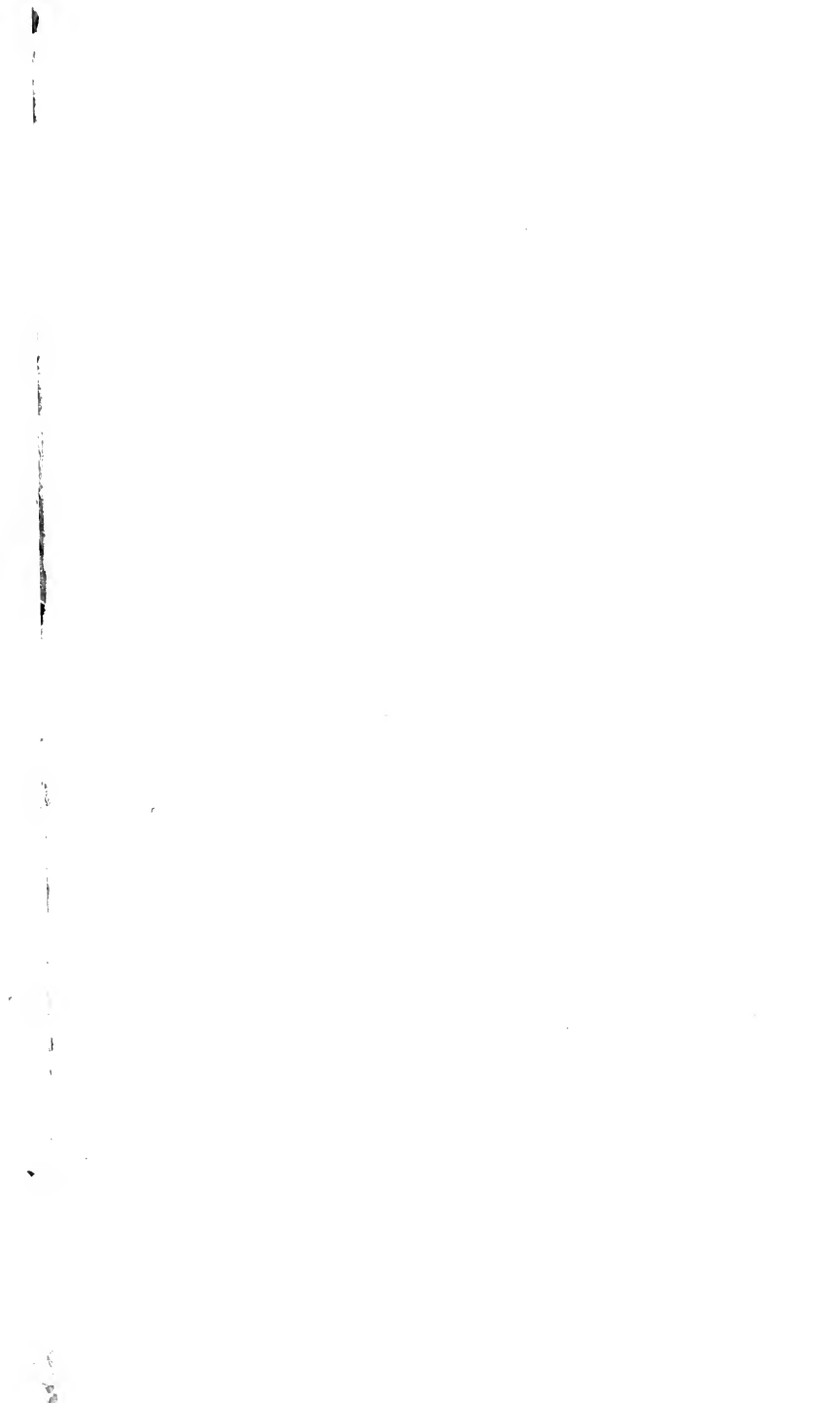
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**“THE WAYS OF THE WORLD.”**



Being a History of

**THE LIFE**

OF

**DAVID KELLS,**

**THE HERO**

OF

**SEVEN BATTLES.**

3



Written by Himself.



ADRIAN, MICH.

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# LIFE OF DAVID KELLS

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In commencing a small narrative of this kind, it requires the reader to pay particular attention to all its various points systematically, and in detail. I was born in the town of Savannah, N. Y., and in the early part of my life was subject to live with those that were willing to take boys to live with them. My parents were poor in worldly goods, but in character and mind there were no better to be found. My father was an honest hard working man, it is said, but giving way to drinking, brought poverty and distress to the family, and affected and destroyed my mother in spirit so, it eventually brought us, as a family, down to ruin in this world's goods.

The first recollection I have of living among strangers, was with a Daniel Failing, a farmer of Dutch origin. I lived with him about one year. At the close of my living with him, I was about eight years old. I was then transferred to a man by the name of Sisson, sometimes called Judge Sisson, of Wayne Co. My stay there was short, four weeks. I was then talked to and petted by Mr. and Mrs. Woodruff, living on Judge Sisson's farm, six miles north of Lyons, three-fourths of a mile south of South Sodus, Wayne Co., N. Y. And finally they so managed as to get me to come and live with them. I was Mrs. Woodruff's pet as a boy, as it seemed to me, for a long time. The family treated me with great kindness, and in short they wanted me bound to live until I was 21 years old, with writings to hold me as theirs. So I was bound to live until I was 21 years old, with the well known William Woodruff. I was well treated by this Mrs. Woodruff, as far as I know, for quite a number of years. Of course she was what they called cross a little, but

no material fault to find for the first two or three years. But when I became older, along up to 12 or 14 years, this Dave began to grow old and of use to them.

Things seemed to change a little different with them. This lady began to grow more tyrannical. But we run a saw mill, and had considerable hired help, and the machinery of the mill broke quite often, and it had a tendency to discourage us all. Finally I began to dislike this family, and as I grew older, it grew with me and I began to think about running away or getting away some way. So on or about the first of April 1852, I believe, I one morning early bundled up my clothes and threw them out of the window, and went down, and as I passed through the room where the family slept, to go out doors, Mrs. Woodruff, then up at 3 o'clock taking care of a sick boy says, "What is the matter David?" I said nothing, and left for parts unknown to them, for myself either.

I traveled all day afoot, and when night came I was about twenty miles from my old home. I stayed all night with a George Bliss, and I told him how I stood in life. I finally hired out to him for a month. This man was the first man I ever worked for for wages. When I left his house I went a few miles further and hired out again for a month, for \$6 dollars a month. When my time was out here I then went to the canal at Madison, Wayne Co., N. Y., and took passage for Port Byron. This was the first time I ever rode on a canal boat, and in a couple of days I found myself to the house of an old uncle, my mother's brother. This I believe was the first good friend I ever found. I finally lived with this uncle 2 or 3 months. His name is Joseph Shotwell. His wife I did not think was altogether as true to me or my uncle's friends, as some other women are to their husband's friends. Sometimes a man marries when he is extremely fond of his wife, and when in fact she has not had the same change of heart, so therefore this woman does not have the same power of affection for his friends as he has got. Then he can be influenced by his wife. Such rule applies to all.

I finally left this uncle at the commencement of harvest to work for Samuel Thomas, for three months, for \$8 or \$9 per month. I worked a month or so and the neighbors said he paid no one for work. I finally after working a month or two got him to go to the store, and he finally by telling them he would pay them as soon as he sold his wheat, they therefore trusted him for about the amount that he owed me. He on the strength of this trade bought a jug of whiskey, and on his way home treated and laughed and talked over what a good boy he had got to work, and I suppose he thought he would keep me the rest of the fall for nothing. But the next morning I began to grow sick. I did

not go to work. I wanted to go home and see my uncle. I finally bundled up my little all and started.

I never went back to work. This was my course in getting my pay. I finally in the Fall went back to see Mr. and Mrs. Woodruff's folks, my old home. They seemed to be very glad to see me and I stayed some one or two months. I then got a place to live and do chores for my board, and go to school. This place was to Mr. Benjamin Craft's house, he lived in the town of Rose, Wayne Co., N. Y., about three miles from Woodruff's.

In the Spring I started from Craft's house and went south 12 miles in the town of Phelps, and hired out to Chauncy Vandemark, to work on a farm for \$9 00 a month. There was a great accident happened to me that summer. I got kicked by one of his horses in the forehead which gave me a mark that I carry to this day, and can be plainly seen yet on my forehead, and it will always remain there through life.

I after getting through work to Mr. Vandemark's in the fall, went back to see my uncle, and one trip on the Erie canal, then went back to Sodus, I then stopped and lived with William Miles and did chores and went to school that winter. And when Spring came I hired out to a man by the name of David June. He lived 3 miles south of South Sodus. My wages were ten dollars per month. My stay was but short there for I was taken with sore eyes, and it lasted most of the summer. While my eyes was sore I went down to Port Byron and three miles south. I went and lived with an uncle, Abraham Kells, until my eyes got better. In the Fall I came back and hired out to Mr. John Butler: he lives three-fourths of a mile south of South Sodus. I worked one or two months, and worked about until winter.

I then worked through the winter for another man. And in the spring I was about 18 years old. I went to New York and shipped on board a vessel for the port of New Orleans. My voyage on the sea was about 30 days. Our skipper's name was Hadley and we got in the port of New Orleans in the latter part of May.

I left the ship that brought me to New Orleans, and went up the Mississippi on board the big steamship Connecticut, to St. Louis. I was taken very sick while on this passage up the river. I finally got able to go to a boarding house. I remained ten days and took passage up the Illinois river, to Lasalle. I stayed about this country two months, and then went up to Chicago and shipped on board a vessel for the port of Grand Haven. I arrived in this last place some time in August, '52 or 8, I remained here with uncle Henry Pennoyers all the Fall and Winter until Spring, and then I went back to New York State, to Sodus. And the same season I went down to old Connecticut and went on board an

oyster sloop. My voyage was but one day at that business. I then took the morning train for New York, and then the steamboat for Albany, and the cars for Ft. Edward. I then stayed around all the Fall and Winter, and in the Spring I went rafting on the North river, or cooking on a raft through the summer months, and when winter came I went to Ft. Edward Institute to school.

Spring came, I went again on the river to work, and the next I went to school, and the next summer I went to rafting and in September I came to Michigan. This was in 1856. I stopped this time near Jackson, Michigan.

Again I now call on the reader to trace this writing along in detail to the fullest extent of its meaning. I first commenced work for a Randolph Jackson, and Sundays I would go over to see what I could of uncle French's folks. This family of French's lives 8 miles northwest of Jackson, Michigan. His first wife was my father's sister, and she died years before I came to Michigan.

French married for his second wife the late widow Boyden. She had two daughters, while French is the father to three boys and one girl. When French married this widow Boyden, her girls were small, and so was French's boys. But as they grew old into womanhood, and the boys into manhood, there soon rose a family feeling. In point of view it seemed that there was a lingering thought hanging upon the mind of French's boys, and may be the old gentleman's, concerning who should marry those girls, as soon as they got grown up into womanhood, &c.

When I first made my appearance in '56 about Jackson, all the people were strangers to me. I knew no one nor no one knew me as I knew of. Yea, the man with a true spirit, and with humanity in his breast, was not known to the outside world yet. But in regard to human nature, in one section of the country it is about the same as in another. The human family will die and decay in like manner in all parts of the world alike, and in the name of God and humanity, I am about to pen down one of the most striking circumstances that ever occurred in the annals of history.

I believe the Bible in part mentioned no such circumstances in like manner in which in this writing will be penned down. If I expose human nature, or enlighten people upon that great point, I do it for the personal benefit of all; not merely for this generation, but for all time to come. To fellow citizens, read, and you will know. To a striking appeal to all now living and to all time to come, to read what I am to write, carefully and with attention.

To the ministers of the gospel, yea, the leading men of all societies,

this pamphlet is not common, this writing is power, and the ways of the world should be written, and it seems to be my duty to write. But it will be too bad to think the young woman is to be mingled in with this letter or pamphlet.

Many people now living in Central Michigan, in the counties of Jackson, Washtenaw and Lenawee, besides other parts of the State, have heard a great deal said about D. KELLS. Ever since about the year of '56, DAVID KELL's name has begun to spread in a very queer point of view.

Now I propose to let the world hear about DAVID KELLS.

There was nothing very particular for the people of Jackson to harp about concerning me, against my character, as I know of, but there is a very great and queer thing to explain how this powerful feeling came to exist first. If like circumstances should exist in other parts of the country, in like manner, the same human nature is found wherever you find the same intelligence among the people. I am thinking that the people have become so corrupt and become so degenerated in humanity's ways, that they may consider this beyond their reach. It seems to be natural for mankind to envy their fellow man, if they notice their fellow man is a gentleman, or if a man has no near relative or friend to occasionally speak for him. It does not take long for influence to spread. If a man is of no note, there will be nothing said about him.

It is not pleasant to speak of one's self, but it is too bad to think that a young man that is not married, that there would be such a power of feelings arise against him. But DAVID is alone in the world comparatively. I was told by a friend living a few miles from Jackson, that the people run me as hard as they could. I was slandered the worst of all men, yea, all that could be raked and scraped against me, it was done.

Now the reader will find out that this must mean something, to have such powerful feelings arise against one. This generation of Jackson cannot forget me, and in this city of Jackson, Michigan, is where the power of prejudice first began to exist against DAVID KELLS. And I believe I have got as much humanity and sympathy as any one that ever lived. As I review the cause of this prejudice in detail, the reader will take close examination how this originated, and they can judge for themselves a little as concerns my own natural ways, while I remained in and about Jackson. I believe I supported myself on my own resources and depended upon no one but myself, and strange to say, I never was known to be without money and good clothes. I was always very fortunate in business, and my occupation generally was of an honorable calling, and

the business of peddling is respected by all classes and nations. Such was my business for the last eight or ten years, excepting when absent to war. It is a trying task, but here comes to explain in detail the various causes of this prejudice against DAVID KELLS.

It may become necessary from time to time, to speak of some names. In doing so I do it with a clear conscience, and it is rather a point of necessity. I have no hatred toward any one, for in mankind is the way of nature, and it is a point of necessity to hand down to the rising generations the ways of the world. Therefore the title of this pamphlet should be "The Ways of the World."

Again as I said, when I first made my appearance in Jackson city, all were strangers to me. This was in 1856. In a city of a busy crowd of a bustling world, I walked up one side of Main street and down the other, and all looked strange to me and new. But few can tell exactly what will happen in the future to one.

Now my friends, I must commence as best I can in detail upon the great subject of matrimony. That seems to be the foundation of which all originated for or against DAVID KELLS. First, I called on the well known Ellen Boyden. French was her step-father. He had two sons, Columbus and another grown-up young man. It seemed to me that French was opposed to anyone calling to see these girls Julia and Ellen, for some reason or another. Ellen was about 16, just growing up into womanhood. Julia 18, and had refused the oldest boy, as I thought, and it seemed that French would like to connect Ellen and Columbus together, therefore if such was the case, it would be natural for French to oppose any one calling to see Ellen.

The actions when I called were of this nature: French would go up stairs and the boys would go away, and these boys was cousins to me too, and when French came down stairs he would say nothing to me, only pass the time of day.

There seemed to be two families together. It seemed that at that time Mrs. French had worked up French's mind, stating that she would leave when the girls got married, while on his hands was three or four small children. For again, what reasons would French have for objecting to young men calling to see those girls, if it was not for to connect those girls to his boys. This point I leave for people to judge a little for themselves. I see no reasons for outsiders, if it was not for that purpose. No outsider had any reason to interfere, if they was not persuaded by Mr. French's folks, or from some such source.

June Bennett of Jackson was these girls' guardian, and had eight hundred dollars apiece of their money, as it was said or thereabouts, and it might be considered by good judges that June Bennett was the first

instigator of this power of prejudice against DAVID KELLS. This began to work along in the year 1857, for like sweet cider it soon began to grow hard. The first six months of my living in Michigan, that is from Fall of '56 to Spring of '57, it was visiting occasionally to French's and working through the winter to Daniel Smith's a mile from Jackson. I gathered a great deal of good feelings, the first six months of my living in and about Jackson, for these orphan girls Julia and Ellen Boyden. But the time must come soon to have a change. I noticed that none were in favor of my calling to see Miss Ellen, and she herself ill-treated me along towards the last. The people began to make her believe that she was better than myself. This girl must be considered the first girl I ever liked, therefore this is the starting point of my life.

This circumstance worked heavy on my mind for a long time, until I got my eyes open, and could see that this girl Ellen was more weak than wise, and soon began to think her a poor tool to love because the more respect I showed towards her, the more meaner she acted towards me. Therefore I began to grow with hatred towards her, and before a year or so, I considered her not worthy the notice of any respectable young man. I discarded her altogether.

But during the first year, it might be said that DAVID KELLS worked out for different men, and the most of them troubled me about paying me. Some would pay well, and some would not. Such as Sidney Smith was poor pay. One or two others, Vanhorn was good. All in a few miles of French's where I lived, all began to grow prejudiced against me, and June Bennett of Jackson began to grow the same way. Now then, on or about this time, in 1857, a great power of prejudice began to grow up against DAVID KELLS, and I not having any friends, yea I could only look toward heaven and say "God is my friend—when all forsake me he does not." There while the people began to grow troubled God prepared a way that I should rest with ease, while the people grew troubled about me. This was a great consolation to me, to know that I was safe, through all fiery dangers that would happen. During the time of peace and war the Bible tells us that God does not protect the wicked and the vagabonds of the earth, but the just and the righteous shall inherit eternal life. Now it must be according to the history of myself that God sees no wrong in DAVID KELLS, while the people would slander me with power and vengeance. In close of this pamphlet, I will explain what this power means, in which I am benefited from a higher source than ordinary. This must be considered the close of '57, all that is necessary to write during what happened that year.

1858 followed with my commencing this business of peddling. The first experience I had was driving a horse and wagon, peddling tin and

glass ware for Joseph Tibbetts, of Jackson city. Before commencing for Joe, I was tending bar at Onondaga, Ingham county, Mich. I had been inquiring of all those that I saw about the profit of such business and it seemed to be an occupation got up expressly for me, yea it seemed to come second nature to me, and it was lucky too that I should have something of the kind to do, because the people was so horribly affected about me, that an outside business of that kind was a great and earthly good, and I have lived and prospered by it.

I must hasten along to more definite points, relating to how business went with me, and the commencing of my living in Jackson city, Mich. When I first commenced peddling in, and living up at Jackson, it was at Philip Thurber's glass-ware store. His partner was Burhead Clark Blackmar.

I do not propose to exaggerate the matter by using any familiar names, nor to harass the feelings of none, but to take a straight forward course, in explaining as best I can how things went with me from time to time. Philip Thurber was a very clever old gentleman, and a fleshy handsome man of his age, as was in Jackson. Bur., his partner, was a small lean spare man. The two was on agreeable terms at these times. I believe the firm was having a large retail trade. I made one or two trips in and out of Jackson. Then I observed that Thurber was ready to shake hands with me when coming from a trip. I believe at this time that there was but one that personally knew me and that was June Bennett. But I peddled away and I noticed that Thurber began to notice and love me while it did not exactly suit his partner Bur., for some reasons or another, at least it looked so to me. Now then to break up this good feeling that uncle Thurber had toward me if they could. I knew about these days that Bennet was an enemy to me by actions, that I had observed coming forth from him. But still, Bennett must meant well for me. Well Tibbetts began to grow jealous of Thurber being so friendly towards me, and he was persuaded to discharge me or he did it any how on or about the first of March, it seemed to trouble him considerable to see Thurber treating me with such great kindness. There was a good meaning on the part of Thurber. I saw Elizabeth and talked, that was all. The next thing for me was to try to get in something else.

So on one fine Monday morning in the month of April, I believe, I called at Livermore's office, for to work and do chores a little, and pay part for my board, and study his law books. His reply to such was that he had no work nor chores, and did not need me, and discouraged me of entering into such business, as he said it needed the best kind of lawyers to go back into new settlements, and so on and so forth. And from that time I considered Mr. Livermore an enemy to me of course.



But perhaps the man had no better judgment than to try to discourage me from a right and true course. For no wise and good man will try to discourage a boy from taking up an honorable business for a livelihood or to seek an honorable business for a livelihood.

The reader will observe as I pass along from time to time who I dwell upon as enemies or friends. I do not wish to speak personally of any one but it becomes necessary just to speak of this lawyer and this merchant Bennett, for it seemed to me that they became irritated about me considerable. I noticed that Rice the hardware man first door from Thurber's was a good deal troubled about Thurber's being so familiar with me. And he had a man working for him in his tin shop, who became my captain in the army, in which I will speak of. By and by a good many citizens became opposed to Thurber's familiarity towards me. I was not scared to see it, but this is the ways of the world.

For a man is something like a tub, he stands on his own bottom, a hint is sufficient for the wise to understand. But I must hasten along. Finally in the summer of 1859 or '60 I observed that it was high time for me to get through this petty courting with the Thurber family. And finally the old man invited me home to his house. And I could see also that Hibbard was respecting me on the part of Mary. Thus this should end. I finally told Mr. Thurber's friends that the matter must be settled between us that Fall, for after that date I would have a clear conscience. Now the reader will see that I am a going according to my own conscience, with truth and humanity. It seemed before I came to this conclusion that Thurber should not take just such a course with me publicly that is if he meant me not to act off as if he did not mean me for it was not right, and right was my course to take. So on or about the first of October, 1859, I finally concluded to let the Thurber family go, for I thought they felt themselves above me and I could not fasten my affections on people that acted and felt above me. They are now at an end. Amen.

During this summer of '59 I peddled Yankee notions and jewelry, &c., and I got quite familiar with goods in general. And, long in October I commenced stopping in Jackson city, selling goods in the streets. A little later in the Fall I commenced auction business in general. And selling gift envelopes with a prize, &c., or in a novelty point of view I let them draw for 10 cents and if they did not like they could lay down the notion and draw the second time for 5 cents. Such selling for the Fall and Winter of '59 and '60 was my business.

I kept up this peddling and selling business until the war of '51. But in the Fall of '50 I think, I began to grow quite familiar with D. B.

Hibbard's family, a hint is sufficient without saying much one way or the other.

I must say that the wise observer of this writing, and of the course is singular to the world. All very nigh that knew me, that was not for me of course was against me, and of course a great prejudice must now be existing. For no one said unto me DAVID I am your friend, but a few there was. This is what seemed to be the great trouble. The people thoroughly reported that it was nothing but a rich girl that I would marry, and thus reported that to break me down before the respectable societies of the country. My only object was merely to clear up my conscience from having any guilt of giving all a chance to get me if they should seek for me. And I did not seek for any on my own hook I merely gave those a chance to get me that was seeking for me, and if they got in love, not forsake them until I gave them a fair chance to get me. Such was my true motto, the golden rule, to do unto others as I would like to have others do unto you.

Now the time is coming around up to 1861. In the Spring, the first sound of war between the North and the South affected my mind and caused me to awake from my slumbers with a feeling that never before came over me, that some great wrong had taken place, and it waked up my natural feelings to a respect of gratitude that the land of my birth should be defended at all hazards, and that I should respond to the call of my country.

The first call for troops was 75,000, our State quota was 1,000. My conscience would not allow me to enlist just yet, for this reason, I had not sought the time to let the family go that had been seeking for me yet. Hibbard's hint the time had not come yet. I occasionally up to June went up towards Hibbard's farm. Until a race was to take place some time in June, I believe on the day of that race I called up there and little Dan pitched in right and left, and a quarrel took place. I was insulted, and I got a warrant out for Dan and had him arrested—a trial took place and Hibbard persuaded the court to decide against me and then Hibbard sued me. I did not attend the trial, and a judgment was given against me of \$25, if I went to Hibbard's to pay the same, if not I need not pay, so I have not paid the debt yet.

It is now six years very near, in no instance in regard to those families be I in the wrong, My course was a straight forward course, not to be persuaded by none, and when it was time for me to marry, something always turned up quite singular. I believe in no instance was I to blame because no Johnson or Livermore or Wood or Blair was wise enough to make me believe the moon was made of green cheese. I did not consider these lawyers smarter than myself. I knew very nigh as much, and

I always attended to my own business. But I think this set of men was a little envious towards me, but time will tell before I finish, a little more about it.

Now the public will see that DAVID KELLS of Jackson city must know some folks and some folks must know me, and by this time there must be a great deal of prejudice existing against me. Men that I did not know yet but afterwards found them out, such as Tunicliff, Cap Griffens, these men like many probably stood ready to use their tyrannical power as soon as an opportunity afforded, but I was not aware of them yet. I noticed before I enlisted in the army that Blair would shun me and be very careful not to pass by near enough to speak to me. Blair's object was not to show me any encouragements for the war, if he did he did not care, I do not suppose. Whether I was the ablest man that went from Michigan or not to war, time will tell this. But I did hear that he and Mr. Hibbard were enemies in politics and in person. Therefore, to fulfill his mind on this subject, Blair thought as I had been quite familiar with Hibbard's family and he thought also that to gratify his feelings as he was not Hibbard's friend and also he felt a little as so he could not bear to hear of DAVID or MARY getting married.

I guess if I can so manage as to keep you a private soldier three years, no matter David if you are smart, we have men enough without you, so help me God. (Signed)

A. BLAIR.

This I supposed was his sentiments, yea I think the reader will observe that it is about right. Because Blair being Governor of Michigan it was in his power to grant a commission or not just as he was a mind to.

I believe it was some time in Sept. 1861 before I got around to enlist in the army. It was my object as soon as I was benefitted with a clear conscience to join the army in defence of the Union. I believe the Government ought to stand for the benefit of all nations and a Republican form, yea secure the land of freedom and you will secure a home for the brave.

I enlisted in the 1st Michigan Infantry, to serve three years or sooner discharged. I was unacquainted with military, I knew nothing of war yet. I was a member of Captain Griffen's company, and Lieutenant Kennedy and Whittlesey was our commanding officers of old Company D. Lieut. Kennedy was a gentleman just newly made, while Whittlesey seemed to be a gentleman and scholar. Griffen was directly from the tin shop of Rice & Co's. Hardware store. These were my first officers in the army.

I now will commence a powerful campaign of DAVID KELLS. I do not know as I will be able to give it in full detail, all of its various

points directly or indirectly but to the best of my ability on<sup>d</sup> this subject. And in no instance do I wish to exaggerate it one way or the other. I was in his company and he was my tyrant and I soon found it out too. It would have been smooth work for me if there had not been no tyrannical feelings towards me in the regiment, if I had been a stranger to all. But no, I fell into the hands of enemies and it proved so to me. Griffen might have early got his prejudice while he was employed in Rice's hardware store, at the time Rice showed that he was not in favor of Thurber's good feelings towards me. At this point is where Capt. Griffith got his first prejudicial feelings towards me, and it was carried with him to war. And Tuncliff the same way, and others I suppose. I am not a going to single out individuals in point of view and speak personally of them.

But an inquiry might be made in regard to know if I remained a private through the war which at first I would have been proud of. But my life was differently ordained. I had no fault to find if all had been peace and quiet about me.

Now what started the matter with me was I observed my Capt. was anxious to keep me on duty at all times and scant our company with their rations, this was when we laid at Bladensburg, Md., I believe this is the starting point. I reported this Capt. to the Colonel John C. Robinson, and things was a little better for a spell. Finally the eyes of all got open and soon commenced one of the most powerful feelings of prejudice that ever existed against man. These feelings were handed down from Michigan. So as the Governor was my enemy so would be the regiment or its officers, and to make it still more disagreeable to me there was a good deal of putting up against me my company soldiers, this was to mortify and tantalize DAVID KELLS. I was always willing to do my duty as a soldier and was proud of the position.

In conclusion I lived in Jackson and so did Governor Blair. I must still hasten along with this document and bring things to light as best I can, that the world may know of a true heart and a true man that ever lived. Give me this day this youthful care and I will which the true army fear.

But as singular as it is connected to my good luck to be so fortunate in battle. God was my protector through all the past and he was to guide me safe through the tolerable conflict of battle, and no man was any more fortunate than I was in battle. I must tell a little about that as I pass along.

In conclusion I will not dwell very seriously upon any instance of my life while I was a soldier. I will speak of various points and then pass on. I was with the regiment at Bladensburg Annapolis Junction

and with it to Fortress Monroe and then to Newport News across to Norfolk and then the next move in front of Richmond Va., under McClellan.

I have not deemed it necessary to speak about all the peculiar actions and sayings up to this time of service, but the regiment had seen its sunny day's it was soon to meet the enemy upon the field of battle there to show its valor and its bravery, as a regiment, and truer men never stood by a flag, then some of the 1st Michigan, and for my own part my country first and the Government forever.

But previous to our regiment leaving Md., for the seat of war I had a long talk with the Chaplain of our regiment about the great success I thought I would have in battle, with true heart for the land of my birth. It was an astonishing thing to tell of, for a man in the 19th century to be protected so greatly in battle, as I had reasons to think I would be. This explanation will be given in the last lines of this pamphlet.

The first battle was with our regiment at Gaine's Mills in front of Richmond or in summing up the sum and table of the commencement of the campaign of my regiment, it is called the seven days, fight in front of Richmond, yea with all its horrors and terrible conflict I pass through without a scratch, and my mind steady and firm upon the great knowledge of knowing one's safetyness in battle. My friends it will be strange to tell you but it is simply this, while I was doing my duty in the first battle I noticed my commanding officers were watching me closely to see me fall or see me dodge the bullets. My thanks with sincerity should be given to Our Great Ruler of the Universe, for giving me such kind protection and such confidence of being safe through the greatest of fiery ordeals of battles. In passing along again from one scene to another it does not elevate my mind above the common level of man. Notwithstanding how well I stood in safety, I am nothing more nor less than to die and return to dust in due time like all others.

After McClellan withdrawing his army from the front of Richmond, I have nothing to say about nothing only what happened with my own self, the management of the army does not belong to the title of this pamphlet, and it does not belong to me to write.

Our great retreat from Richmond to Harrison's landing. It was considered a masterly effort and a great undertaking. But it was accomplished handsomely without any great material loss to our army. I experienced a terrible rain storm with very muddy roads and considerable privations for the first day or two. I recollect of crawling into a hen coop to get out of the great storm. The first day of my introduction at Harrison's landing all of the houses and barns and straw stacks and

nooks and corners that was dry, was occupied by our weary soldiers. While myself and another soldier found comfortable quarters in the above mentioned place during the terrible storm.

But the second day the clouds cleared away, and the regiments formed into order and went into camp into the shades of the woods. Soon again the grand army of the Union was organized with all of its rule of discipline, with all its beauty and grandeur. And time for the weary soldier to write to their sweet-hearts, for the son to write to his parents. And the outside world soon learned the history of the great campaign in front of Richmond. The loss of our regiment I believe was not far from 200 killed, wounded and missing, and so forth.

Now the regimental officers had learned a little what I had told them that the bullet was not moulded to kill DAVID KELLS in battle yet, and with my great knowledge of being safe in battle I concluded I would be of more use than to remain a private soldier, and as I knew that my officers of my regiment from John C. Robinson down, was envious towards me, I could not receive any compliments from my regiment, no matter how useful I was, and how true I was to the country I belong to, they was of no use to me, not at all.

So on one fine morning I wrote a few lines and got permission to go over to see General McClellan. I thought it my duty for so to do, but it did not do any good to call on him, he said he received 50 letters a day of the same kind. So said the postmaster.

I returned to my regiment and renounced George B. McClellan as a traitor to his country for such seemed to be my opinion at that time. So I concluded I would test another man's fidelity to the Union and I called on General Morrell, yea he is a patriot. He commanded our Division.

This last call I made to see Gen. Morrell gave my Captain a good deal of uneasiness. He said, KELLS I do not want you to call on Morrell again. The reason was I had found a patriot and he was looking after me and it was shocking and disgusting to see my officers so much opposed to my calling on Gen. Morrell. Of course I obeyed my Captain's order. I did not call again. But in a few weeks we changed our camping ground out into the open field, each command by itself. On one side of my regiment was the 13th New York, and on the other side was the 22d Massachusetts, and the 25th New York and 118th Pennsylvania, constituted our Brigade and at this time it was commanded by Colonel James Burner of 18th Massachusetts. On or about these days I concluded to see what kind of timber there was in Gen. Porter who then was in command of our Corps. I wrote a letter and started over to his Head Quarters. I sent the dispatch on by his orderly. I do not recol-

lect of there being any reply from Gen. Porter, but the result was this: When I got back to my regiment the same day or the next day after, I was ordered in the guard house. I remained about four days prisoner under guard. I inquired of the officer of the guard what it was for, an order of the Colonel. Finally I concluded I was in there for no particular reason and asked to see the Colonel the reasons of my being in the guard house. He said the reason he had me arrested was because I wrote such peculiar letters to the Commanding Officers, he had no objection to writing to the Commanding Officers if it did not have a tendency to annoy the officers of the regiment. And so he said I could consider myself released, if I would not write any more letters to Commanding Officers. I gave him a promise and started to my tent.

I was at these times kept on duty a good deal every day, either guard or police. Lieut. Burns showed no mercy towards me. He was considered a small comparison of a man. He command my company the most of the time in these days. If I had had respectable treatment all through, I should not had such good reasons to write to my commanding officers. I was a little afraid of Doc. Tunnicliff in case I should come to want with this powerful influence against me. And yet as I still had it in view to write to some other officer to befriend me I kept inquiring of this one and that one, and finally I concluded to trust a letter in the hands of Colonel Barnes, Commanding Brigade. I went under the shade of a tree and penned down all that was for or against me, I concluded to sink or perish one way or the other. I finally handed in the letter, and behold I found a patriot and a true man to his country. I was at last saved and protected, I did not do any more duty than belonged to me and I received my regular rations. Soon all became well. Now from that date on until the close of myself as a soldier Colonel James Barnes was a friend to me.

Soon however we must prepare to march. Orders I believe came some time in the latter part of August for the army of the Potomac to move. I do not recollect exactly the day and date for this move, but soon all was under way. After a few weeks of tedious marching and under the hot sun of Virginia at this season of the year it was a great task to perform. And in regard to myself, I suffered very great, for I was barefooted two weeks, and could not draw or buy a pair of boots or shoes from any source. My luck was simply this, I had new shoes when we started but some reckless fellow stole one, so it was very extremely bad for me. Then I thought by the actions of some of my officers they were glad of it. All the particular transactions of this march I will not try to pen down, it is rather unnecessary. Nor do I think it altogether proper to dwell on this point of my history.

But I must hasten along on or about the time we got around up to Manassas Junction or I might say on this whole march I was on the sick list. But to keep along up to a day or two before we engaged the rebels at Bull Run, my Captain says Kells fall out if you are not well and Kennedy too, to take care of the cooking utensils. But before going any further I will state that I was excused by my Captain two or three days previous to this battle, to pick my way along as best I could, and the day I supposed the battle to go off, I on my own hook hastened along up to join my regiment and company and just as I arrived up near the regiment, Tunicliff says, Kells what are doing out of your place, you are just as able to fight as any man in the regiment. He was so eager to get me in, he thought I might get killed he supposed, or I supposed he thought so. I looked to the doctor and said I came forward on my own hook, after being excused by my Captain, and doctor if I go into this battle I am sure to come out. The doctor looked astonished at this remark, and looked at many of the officers, for he and all the rest knew that I had proclaimed my safety in battle. And finally a halt took place, and the regiment ordered to load, and I was on hand to load my gun too.

Finally I noticed my regimental officers talking together for the last time and then my Captain comes back to my company and says, Kells fall out and take charge of the cooking utensils. Therefore I did not participate in the second battle of Bull Run. This is as nigh as I can get to the thing as I know of. The loss in this battle killed and wounded were 14 commission officers, including my Captain, Colonel Roberts, as I had forgot to say in the proceeding chapter, that Colonel John C. Robinson had got to be Brigadier General. And in this engagement we lost most of our enlisted men. This was terrible to behold, for the loss of so many men in one single engagement. After the storm cleared away I went and joined my company. But few was left, of old company B. Our Captain was gone, our Colonel was shot on his horse, while gallantly leading his regiment up. We as a regiment was but ashade comparatively, to what it was. In short our whole army was defeated at the second Bull Run fight.

Our next move was up in front of Washington. Our stop was but short there, for the rebels were making for Md., Onward and forward was the command. Finally our regiment did not participate in any of the battles in Md., but was on hand and supported a battery at Antietam.

But the next day after the great battle at Antietam our regiment crossed the stone bridge, the bridge that Burnside so nobly held and carried it victoriously over with his command and took position on its heights. And in case of battle we would have been next in action. But nothing



could be seen, only occasionally a scattered picket. We only knew they were by their shooting occasionally from behind their hiding places. Finally about mid day a flag of truce was sent to see a little about the Rebs. The Johnnys had most of them crossed the Potomac river leaving only a straggler behind. This move of the Rebs. was unknown to our army.

We were forwarded again to march. We finally halted on the north bank of the Potomac river near a place called Sheppardstown. Our army remained in camp there about six weeks. But after the first few days our Brigade was ordered to cross over and tackle the, or I mean engage the enemy.

The loss of one regiment was very great, that was the 118th Pennsylvanian. Our regiment lost a few killed and wounded. But we was soon ordered back to our old camping ground. And thus this amounted to but little towards defeating the rebel army. Besides we lost a great many brave and noble men from the State of Pennsylvania. As I said before, we remained here six weeks in camp. Our regiment repaired ourselves comparatively into quarters, and in regard to my own self while I remained here I enjoyed good health.

Now then I will say my name as a soldier began to spread. Officers in all ranks began to hear that I was safe in battle, and my friend Colonel Barnes had an eye on the welfare of myself. I noticed that he was becoming a friend to me.

Friends and fellow citizens of the commonwealth of Michigan, it is with due respect that any soldier belonging to one of the Michigan regiments, that he should at all times promote and elevate and show regard to the State that he was a citizen of. And in like respect for the State to show in like manner towards the citizen of her State. Because a few weak minded unprincipled men became in small commands, the citizens of the State at large are not condemned for those few weak minded unprincipled men. For I do think that the State of Michigan affords as good men and good principled men as is to be found in any State in the Union.

I believe I had not yet called on Colonel Barnes but once previous to our marching toward Fredericksburg, I had but little to say but I found him a friend. Though at least it looked so after we had taken up our line of march. We passed down through by Harper's Ferry and so through by Warrenton Junction, I believe. And it was at this place I believe that Burnside took command and little McClellan to go home and go to bed or somewhere else, for I believe the Government thought he needed rest. In short we as an army soon found ourselves in front of Fredericksburg, and the rebel army in full possession of the city.

Well what next. We remained here a spell at Fulmouth opposite the city until Burnside got ready to make the attack, which proved fatal to our army, for our army was defeated. Our regiment was warmly engaged, our loss was quite small, and I believe our company lost but few. It was in this engagement that Colonel Barnes led the charge under a powerful fire of the enemy, lead the 1st Michigan and 22d Massachusetts to the very brink of the hill in which the enemy occupied. And the Colonel was very fortunate himself, but lost two horses before he reached the front.

It was on this occasion that I stood the shock of battle with power and also it was here that DAVID KELLS stood the fire which forever gave confidence to my regimental officers and also to Col. Barnes. And the Colonel of the 22d Massachusetts saw me stand above all the line at the very top of the hill shooting away, when all behind me was quiet comparatively. There I stood, and the world to witness one of the ablest men in battle without a quiver or any fear, while beneath me lay the most of the men that had ceased firing. And these officers seeing me proving to them the power I possessed, or the protection from God himself as it seemed, and in front of me as the rebel sharpshooters cutting down all that showed themselves on the level of the hill. This showed to them that I was fire proof, and what I had told to them proved true.

Well now, the next thing was after this battle to get back to our respective camping grounds in and about Falmouth, Va., it was not but a few miles from Fredericksburg, that each regiment went into camp for Winter. The history of this Winter quarters, for the army of the Potomac is very familiar to all. I only can give a little outline sketch of it.

Now as far as my duty was concerned in this camp it was not so much as usual, and I very frequently called down to see Colonel Barnes. I believe they made him Brigadier General about this time. However he welcomed me into his tent and talked to me quite considerable, and we grew into warm friends. Now with our talk along at these times it seemed just as he was going through Washington, that I ought to have said to him, he was then on his way to Massachusetts, to apply to Abraham to send me a commission. For all of this talk meant something of the kind, but I was too bashful to ask the question. So it happened I never got a commission.

However the winter passed very agreeably with me considering. And we had no very heavy marching to do that winter excepting one small campaign, when Burnside got stuck in the mud. Finally the regiment and Brigade built winter quarters, and we remained in this camp about five months, attending to camp and picket duty, that was about all.

The Spring opened bright and beautiful, and the army had been fed well and clothed, and had seen some happy days, for we had had the noble Joseph Hooker to command us during the latter part of camping here, and he was the favorite of the Grand army of the Potomac. The Spring as I said opened beautiful with new life and energy to the grand army of the Potomac. Officers had become to know one another, privates have learned one another, the friends at home had heard from one another, therefore before the Spring campaign opens all is beautiful.

Now my friends, concerning myself at this spring time of year, I was transferred from my regiment to this arrangement. Gen. Barnes had a large new tent put up with ornaments of various kinds, and they came on from Massachusetts, beautiful daughters from that State, and just at that time I was ordered to pack and go on to the battery. A hint is enough.

I have arrived up to the time of my going on duty to the 4th Rhode Island Battery. The reason of this change is because they lacking of men and needed more men in that arm of service, so I thought a change would be beneficial in this arm of service. As it is said of old a change of pastures makes fat calves. So I concluded it don't make but little difference to where one is if they can make themselves contented. In branching out from this into various other circumstances to meet the battle of life, a will of nerves and ambition and perseverance to keep from sinking beneath the hand of slander which sometimes comes forth from enemies or any other source. My stop here in this Battery was but short, I believe we went through one battle, the great battle of Chancellorville, this battle was command by Joseph Hooker. I went through this without a scratch, like all others I was to be saved. I was saved and so it is with my good luck to be saved in battle.

Our army was obliged to retreat from the line of Chancellorville back across the Rappahannock to quietly go into camp. We held our position very well but the season of the year and the clouds thickening over our heads showed a powerful indication of a heavy storm, and would cause the rise of the river and it would make it impossible to recross or to supply our army. So thanks to Gen. Hooker for doing so well and our Government had reason to be proud of this noble commander and a true star to our country.

Shortly after this battle I changed off from the 4th Rhode Island Battery to the 3d Massachusetts. This 3d Massachusetts I remained in during my time as a soldier. I must say I was quite well treated in this Battery as well as could be expected now in following along in detail from week to week in this battle and so on, it only requires for me to speak of myself. I believe my duty while in this was to act as one of the can-

noneers, and when we was drawn into line my duty was to help pass the ammunition and so on.

Now my name as a soldier began to spread broad and wide, no one doubted of my superiority in battle. The battery men, the infantry men, those that was in my regiment and in other soon began to hail me as an Iron clad, a safe bulwark for the rebels to fire at, and when called into line expecting a skirmish my old regimental boys would come up and shake hands, and all around me would look upon me and give a sigh and wish they was as safe in battle as myself. Many and many learned that I was protected by a higher power, and many did begin to hail me with kindness and friendship, while many commanding officers just before going into battle would ride up where they could see me and give a sigh and a wish. Poor fellows, they wanted to pass through the battle without a scratch. None but God could protect them, and if they had been true in spirit and in truth they undoubtedly would have had the same protection. The matter looks very singular to the stranger that one man out of so many million that ever lived is guided by a light.

Time passed on and the Spring was fast fading away into the great history of the war. The next thing that constituted my duty was to do as I had done in the line of duty, and also it was quite a task again to get acquainted and familiar with this new set of men. These were mostly Massachusetts men of the Yankee stripe, and they might be considered a very good class of men.

I passed my time here quite agreeable for a long time. I do not think it will be necessary to relate from day to day about how things went, for it was about one thing right along, excepting marches and fatigue.

Our next move from our old camp, was I believe some time in May. When finally the whole army began to get ready to move yea the enemy began to think about stirring. Our arm of the service did not move but a little ways before we went into camp. This was at United States ford. We remained here some two or three weeks. Finally we commenced moving along gradually, slowly, and indicated battle quite frequently.

Finally it began to be sounded that we was going out of old Virginia into Md. I believe some felt happy, for some reasons, when a change of any kind takes place in the army it generally brings cheerfulness, from the pleasant camping ground to a weary march, yea from a midnight slumber and a double quickstep brings cheerfulness with an army. An enlisted man wants something new generally afloat to keep life and energy.

When we arrived in Md., we the most of us found refreshments,

such as soft bread, new milk, ripe cherries and potatoes, everything to make life a little better. The enemy was at this time shoving for Pennsylvania, and Hooker was now superseded by Gen. Meade, and soon the decisive battle must take place betwixt the north and the south. And it was on the plains of Gettysburg that the decisive victory was won and this was the last battle that I participated in. The great battle of Gettysburg will always be remembered by me. This I believe constituted as hard battles as it is well known in history the Union army came out victorious.

Now the principal part of my history should be given in a few words. The reader will watch closely. Before I left Michigan for war I was somewhat involved with D. B. Hibbard's folks, it was simply this. Hibbard had went to show the public that there was attractions and friendly feelings existing in me, which very much displeased the leading men and the Governor of Jackson, as Blair and Hibbard were both citizens of Jackson. For these reasons Blair could not commission me in the army, no matter how useful I was, his mind was indifferent toward me, because if I was a useful soldier and was powerful on the occasion of a battle, and was well known in Jackson by all the leading men. It was a sure reason that Blair envied me, for I want the reader to understand that I was a citizen of Jackson many years previous to the war and was well acquainted with Blair, Johnson Livermore and all of the leading lawyers of the city.

The great secrecy of my history is this: I was a young and single man always previous before the war, and am yet up to this date, and my home is in and around Jackson city. Now then a great many men fancied me suitable to marry some sociable girl. First in rotation was Philip Thurber. As soon as he began to be my particular favorite all of the leading citizens showed signs of not being in my favor.

I was in no fast money making business at that time, and I was clearly a subject of talk. On the other hand, Thurber was rich and proud, and had but one single girl, and for him to invite me to his house it was natural for the rich leading men to feel a little envious toward their fellow man. Well, from this point, spread out the great power of prejudice. If an intelligent man could only be placed on a steeple in Jackson all through this campaign, after the leading men getting involved about what sociable girl I should marry, or after many began to know DAVID KELLS, and knew he was not married to no girl, and was a young good looking man, he would lift his voice to God and say: "This man, DAVID KELLS, is the worst slandered man that ever lived." Let this man still remain there a few years, and having that power given him to know what is going on, and he would respond again to God and sound the

trumpet, so the angels of Heaven would hear him, and say that KELLS was a single man yet, and the citizens of Jackson was opposed to his getting married to any respectable girl. This same prejudiced feeling would come from any other city, town or county, where the same kind of people lives. Human nature is the same in all parts of the world alike, so God will let these people of Jackson eat, sleep and drink and let them prosper in worldly goods, as well as in all other parts of the country, until their time comes, one by one, to die. For what lives there now and knows me, never can forget those that should be envious toward me, should be pitied. God himself, I hope, will have mercy upon that poor dying race.



























